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Operation to remove hydrofluoric acid in Norphlet begins

By Associated Press

2:27 PM CDT, April 19, 2009

NORPHLET, Ark. (AP) — Authorities say workers have begun removing 7,800 gallons of hydrofluoric acid improperly stored at a chemical plant in Norphlet.

Yancey Kyle, Union County's emergency management coordinator, told The Associated Press that workers began removing the acid from the plant around 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Kyle says the winds were blowing south, away from homes near the Norphlet Chemical Plant.

Kyle says the cleanup operation likely will last three or four days.

Union County Judge Bobby Edmonds declared an emergency Thursday after Homeland Security officials inspected the plant and found flaw in a tank that held hydrofluoric acid.

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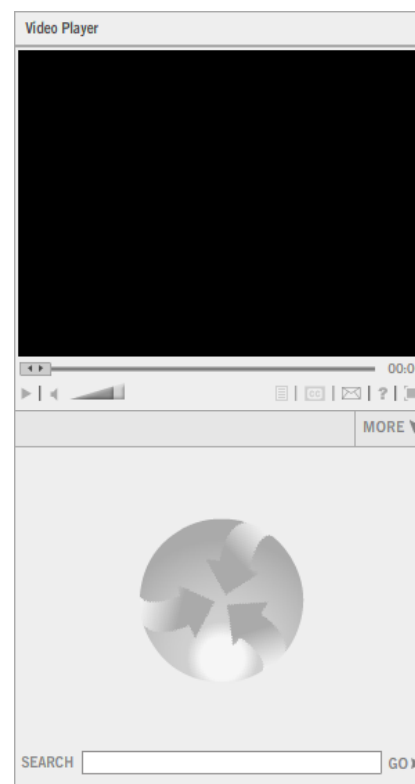
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